



Title	Regional Reflections on WCU Initiatives: Anchoring Globalization in Hong Kong Research Universities
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5th International Conference on World-Class Universities

3-6 November, 2013

Shanghai, China

Regional Reflections on WCU Initiatives



Anchoring globalization in Hong Kong Research Universities



The Hong Kong case

- Managed to establish several WCRU
 - in a Cantonese speaking migrant society
 - no natural resources or major manufacturing
 - High research productivity/low GDP% for R&D

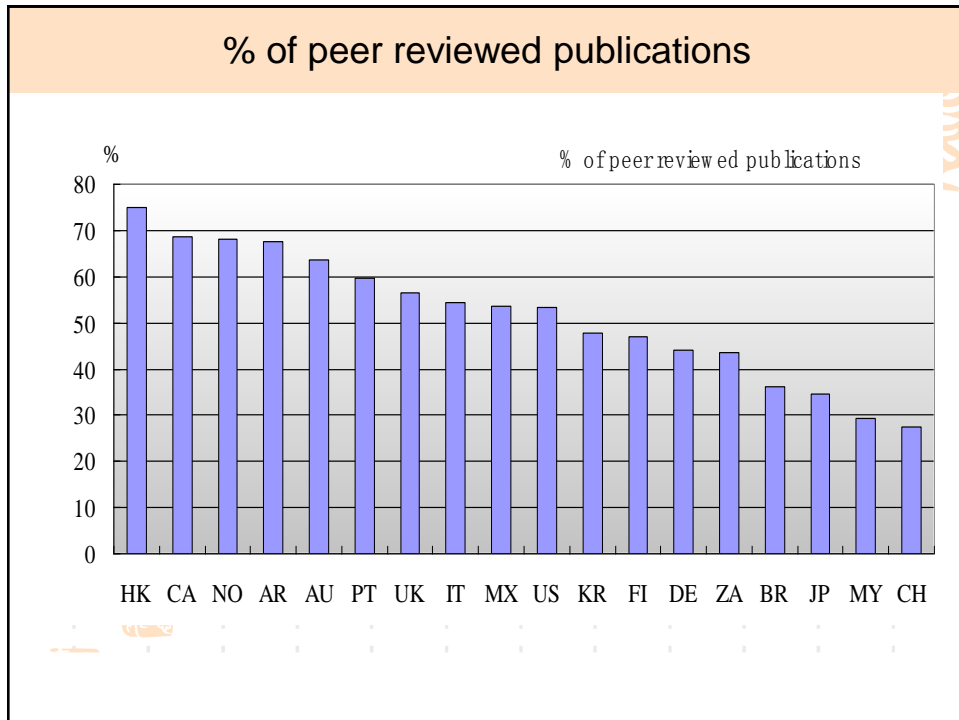


3 decades of change

- 1981 Two universities (2% of age cohort)
- 1988 Research Grants Council
- 1989-1994 Expansion of places 8%>16%
- 1991 University of Science & Technology
- 1994 Upgrade of Colleges&Polytechnics > Univ.
- 1997 Sovereignty retrocession
- 1998 Asian economic crisis+2003 SARS
- 2008 Global economic crisis
- 2012 University re-alignment (Mainland&USA)

Balancing quality&quantity

- Mass higher education 60+%
 - government funded degree places 18%
 - self-funded sub-degree places 42%
- Teaching+Learning
 - Cultural tradition - stress on examinations
 - Extra year for liberal arts education
- Research
 - GDP for R&D 0.7%
 - High output of refereed research publications



Enabling environment

- Government steering
- Institutional autonomy
- Academic governance
- Academic freedom
- Academic leadership
- English medium
- **Internationalism**
- Brain circulation
- Knowledge networks
- Amphibious
 - academics
 - administrators
 - entrepreneurs

Sources: P. Altbach and G. Postiglione, Hong Kong's Academic Advantage, *Peking University Educational Review*, 2011;
 Postiglione, G. A. (2006) The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China: Context, Higher Education, and a Changing Academia, in *Quality, Relevance and Governance in a Changing Academia: International Perspectives*, edited by Huang Futao, (Hiroshima: Research Institute for Higher Education, Number 20, COE Publication Series), Sept, pp. 97-114.
 Postiglione, G. A. (2007) Hong Kong: Expansion, Reunion with China, and the Transformation of Academic Culture, in William Locke and Ulrich Tischler (Eds.) *The Changing Conditions for Academic Work and Careers in Selected Countries*, (Kassel: International Centre for Higher Education Research), pp. 57-76;

Internationalism

- 40% expatriate academic staff
- Chinese mainland 1% international staff
 - source: CASS
- International (non-local) students – 20%
 - 10% Chinese mainland
 - 10% International

主要的研究语言

Primary research language (%)

Chinese	14.9
English	88.8
German	0.5
French	0.1
Others	1.3

(Multiple Responses Allowed)

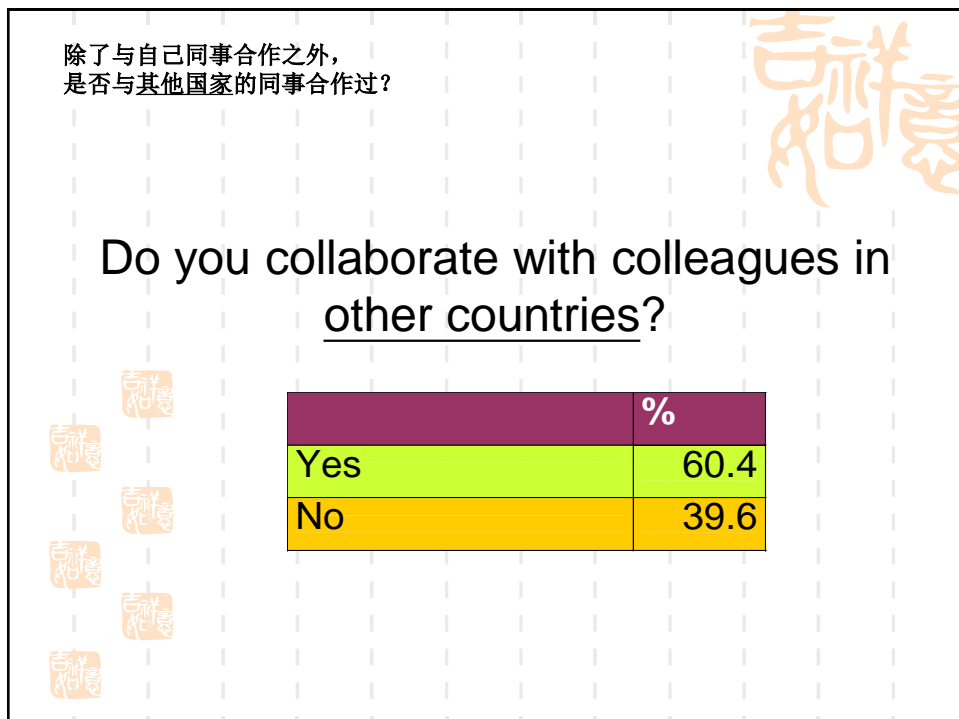
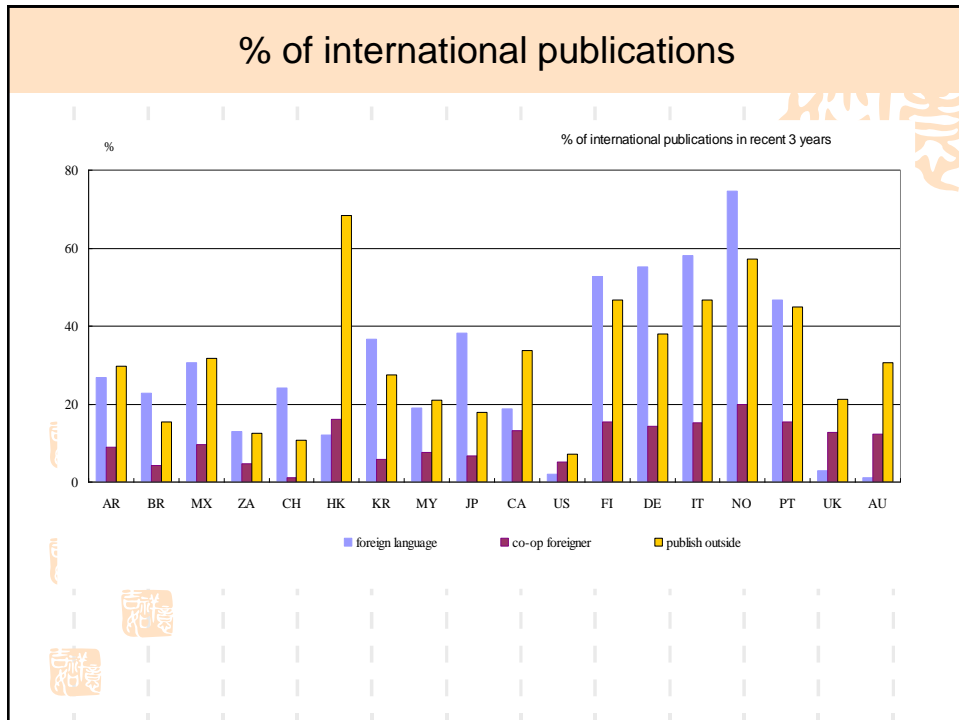
中文

英文

德文

法文

其他



你是否与中国其他地区学术机构的学者合作？

Do you collaborate with scholars at institutions in
other parts of China?

	%
Yes	44.9
No	55.1



2013 -- A large drop in the global
& regional rankings

**Can it continue to
sustain 3 or 4 WCRU?**



Times Higher Education 2013

- Hong Kong's top research university
 - From #1 Asian university to 4th rank
 - From 21st to 43rd (four years ago) PKU 45
 - Below Tokyo, Singapore, Melbourne.
- “significant drop”
 - Phil Baty (Ranking editor, Times Higher Ed)
- It matters - British heritage of Hong Kong

- One university fell off the list from previous 182nd place
- Another university rose up 15 places to 109th place

Why the drop in rankings?

- Switch from British 3-year model to USA 4-year model with liberal studies?
- Drop in quality or competitors rising?



Why the drop in rankings?

- Research universities do not seem to be competitive working with industries
 - Ranked below Singapore, Korea, Mainland
 - Sourcing funding for business:
 - 57 points out of 100 point score.



Response from top university

- “The general list [rankings] will serve as a reference. We will continue to seek excellence in teaching, learning and research.”
- Coincidence or response:
 - Appointment of first non-ethnic Chinese president in the history of PRC

University response

- President of one of the universities that rose 8 places to 57th:
 - “We have to keep running to stay in place.”

Government response

- \$23 billion fund for research in universities
- \$50 million for efforts on:
 - research transfer
 - Collaboration with industry”



Univ. Grants Comm. response

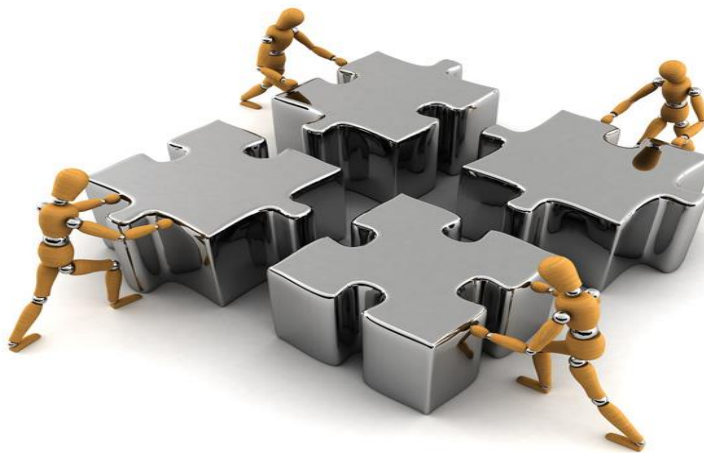
- “Hong Kong has an unprecedented opportunity to leverage its celebrated geopolitical location to continue its success story.”



Media response

- “It is impossible to compare universities around the world.”
- “University heads should not fret.”
- “Thomson Reuters is biased toward the West, ..should not take it seriously”
- “Unusual, unrealistic to say the least”
- “Dartmouth is 10th by US News &WR, and 126th in THE, Brown 14th but 52nd on THE, Tufts 28th but 80th on THE

De-anchor & re-anchor globalization



Volatility and future challenges

- Competitor academic salary rises
- Competitor internationalism rise
- Returnees doctorates and experience
- Academic freedom trends
- Privatization and student body composition
- Research funding sources (incl. industry)
- China 973 plan
 - Ministry of S&T & National Science Foundation
 - agriculture, health, information, energy, environment, resources, population, etc.
- Future global recession?

New recognition: Potential shift in regional focus

- Current regional focus:
 1. USA + Anglo-English world
 2. Chinese mainland
 3. Other areas of Asia and Europe
- Future regional focus:
 - Chinese mainland
 - Other Asia (East, Southeast, South, Central)
 - USA, Anglo-English, and other Europe
 - Africa and Latin America

- Anchoring Globalization in Hong Kong's Research Universities: Network Agents, Institutional Arrangements and Brain Circulation, *Studies in Higher Education*, Vol. 38, No. 3, 2013, pp. 345-366.

- Global Recession and Higher Education in Eastern Asia: China, Mongolia and Vietnam, *Higher Education*, 2011, Vol.62 No.6 pp. 789-814.

Thank you.

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CONTEXT

- SAR---1C+2S
- Tiny land mass
- 7-million population
- Migrant heritage
- 95% Chinese nationality
- 3 languages, 2 scripts
- Low fertility
- Post-colonial legacy
- Free speech
- Free movement
- Open internet access
- High integrity civil service
- Semi-democratic
- Rule of law
- Vibrant civil society
- Highly unequal (Gini Coif)
- Semi-ethnocracy
- Capitalist economy
- Few natural resources
- Little manufacturing
- Service economy
- Global Center Financial, Trade, Transport
- Low unemployment
- Low violent crime
- Low taxes
- Low corruption
- No terrorism
- Cosmopolitan
- Concerns about H5N1, etc.
- World highest longevity for women
- Free schooling Pre-School +9 years
- Top tier PISA ranking
- 8 public (1 priv) research universities